

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 01077 011931Z
ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1077

STADIS

FOR NEA/ARN AND NEA/RA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: JO, SHUM
SUBJECT: COMMENT ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT

REF: 77 STATE 297111

1. IN EMBASSY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH GOJ OFFICIALS ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT AND GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, GOJ HAS LEFT DEFINITE IMPRESSION OF ITS INTEREST IN MAINTAINING GOOD HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD AND IN RESPONDING AS RESPONSIBLY AS POSSIBLE TO ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS LEVELED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL OR OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS. GOJ OFFICIALS HAVE UNOFFICIALLY COMMENTED SPECIFICALLY ON TWO PARAGRAPHS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S RECENTLY PUBLISHED REPORT. WE SUGGEST COMMENT NOT RPT NOT BE ATTRIBUTED OFFICIALLY TO GOJ.

2. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION PERTAINS TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ALLEGATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH MARCH 1977 ARRESTS OF TRADE UNIONISTS. MUSA KUWEIDER, FATHALLA AL-OMANI AND AHMAD JIRADAT (NAME GIVEN INCORRECTLY BY A.I. AS "KJRADAT") WERE ARRESTED FOR ACTIVITIES
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UNDERTAKEN WITH COMMUNIST PARTY OF JORDAN (CPJ) AIMED AT SUBVERSION OF THE REGIME, NOT FOR ACTIVITIES PERTAINING TO TRADE UNIONS. ALL THREE ARE WELL-KNOWN CPJ MEMBERS, BUT ARE BY NO MEANS THE ONLY CPJ MEMBERS IN JORDANIAN UNIONS. OTHER UNIONISTS NOT INVOLVED IN ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES WERE NOT ARRESTED.

3. HARSHNESS OF SENTENCE PASSED ON PEOPLE FOR SELLING
LAND IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TO ISRAELI AUTHORITIES SHOULD
BE READ BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN CONTEXT OF CURRENT
MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL SITUATION. UNTIL FORMAL PEACE
TREATY IS SIGNED, JORDAN IS IN STATE OF WAR WITH ISRAEL.
SALE OF PROPERTY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY TO OCCUPYING
AUTHORITY IS CONSIDERED ILLEGAL AND TREASONOUS.
PICKERING

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